

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 070389 TOSEC 030117

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, WEDNESDAY MORNING, 3/30

NO. 12

NEWSPAPERS

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

PAGE ONE STORY: "HOW MUCH 'FAT' IN DEFENSE? SOVIET
TALKS AFFECT ANSWER"

DANIEL SOUTHERLAND AND DAVID WILLIS FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "'BUSINESSLIKE ... USEFUL ... HELPFUL ...' THESE
WERE THE CAUTIOUS WORDS USED BY US SECSTATE CYRUS VANCE
TO DESCRIBE THE FIRST BROAD-SCALE DIPLOMATIC REVIEW TO BE
HELD BETWEEN THE CARTER WHITE HOUSE AND THE SOVIET
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UNION."

OTHER POINTS:

-- TONE HAS BEEN SOMBER AND BIGGEST QUESTION STILL UNRE-
SOLVED.

-- FACT THAT SALT DID NOT COME UP SECOND DAY CONSISTENT
WITH MOSCOW'S CAUTIOUS APPROACH. BREZHNEV UNDOUBTEDLY

INVOLVED HIMSELF IN REVIEWING CARTER PROPOSAL.

-- TENSION RISING AMONG WESTERNERS IN MOSCOW, WITH BOTH SIDES "RACING" THROUGH 8 MAJOR WORLD TOPICS IN LESS THAN SIX HOURS. WITH TRANSLATING TIME, THIS IS ABOUT A HALF HOUR AN ISSUE.

-- VANCE STRUCK CAUTIOUS NOTE AT END OF DAY.

-- ON SOVIET SIDE, TASS MAINTAINED ITS COOL TONE.

-- VANCE ANNOUNCED WORKING GROUPS. NOT CLEAR WHETHER GROUPS REPRESENTED PROGRESS OR AN EFFORT "TO EXTRACT SOMETHING FROM TALKS THAT HAVE SHOWN LITTLE ELSE SO FAR."

-- WITH LACK OF EVEN A HINT OF SOVIET STAND ON MAJOR ISSUES, WESTERN ANALYSTS WERE TRYING TO DETERMINE SIGNIFICANCE OF DENIAL OF ENTRY VISA TO UPI CORRESPONDENT FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

HEARST

JOHN WALLACE (SIC) IN BOSTON HERALD AMERICAN

PAGE 2 STORY. HEADLINE: "VANCE IS AWAITING BREZHNEV REPLY ON N-WEAPONS CUT"
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LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE TODAY EXPECTS TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV TO THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR SUBSTANTIAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS CUTS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE EXPECTS SUBJECT TO COME UP TODAY, AND IS STILL PREPARED TO STAY ON IN MOSCOW IF IT WOULD BE USEFUL.

-- VANCE NOT DISCOURAGED BREZHNEV DID NOT SHOW UP YESTERDAY. INDICATES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN PROPOSALS.

-- TWO SIGNS THAT TALKS GOING BETTER THAN EXPECTED:

1 - ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONTROVERSY.

2 - ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS.

-- "VETERAN OBSERVERS" BELIEVE KREMLIN WOULD NOT AGREE TO GROUPS IF THEY WEREN'T ALSO GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO US SALT PROPOSAL.

-- VANCE FOR FIRST TIME CALLED TALKS "USEFUL AND HELPFUL."

-- EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF MIDEAST YESTERDAY.

-- "USDEL SOURCES" DISCLOSED THAT SOVIET UNION HAD HELPED REMOVE THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO GENEVA CONF BY DROPPING INSISTENCE THAT PLO BE REPRESENTED AS PRECONDITION TO STARTING CONFERENCE.

-- VANCE ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO REVIVE MBFR.
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NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

STORY ON PAGE 10 WITH PICTURE OF MRS VANCE

HEADLINE: "VANCE AND SOVIETS TALK, BUT IGNORE NUKE CUTS"

JEFFREY ANTEVIL FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "US AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS HELD FAR-RANGING TALKS YESTERDAY, BUT THERE WAS NO REPLY TO THE KEY AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR DEEP CUTS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES' NUCLEAR ARSENALS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- ATMOSPHERE BUSINESSLIKE

-- FACT THAT NO REPLY GIVEN INDICATES THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN PROPOSALS.

-- BREZHNEV MISSED SECOND MEETING. HODDING CARTER SAID US UNDERSTOOD IN ADVANCE THAT BREZHNEV WOULD NOT ATTEND ALL SESSIONS.

-- VANCE SAID YESTERDAY'S TALKS COVERED EUROPEAN FORCE REDUCTIONS, COMPLETE NUCLEAR TEST BAN PROPOSAL, ARMS SALES, AND MIDEAST AND AFRICAN SITUATIONS.

-- TWO SIDES AGREED TO SET UP JOINT WORKING GROUPS TO FOLLOW SEVERAL OF THESE SUBJECTS.

NEW YORK TIMES

FRONT PAGE STORY. HEADLINE: "US AND SOVIET TO FORM PANELS ON MAJOR ISSUES"
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BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE SAID HERE TODAY AFTER THE SECOND DAY OF WIDE-RANGING TALKS THAT THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS TO DISCUSS ISSUES THAT COULD BE ONLY INITIALLY EXPLORED DURING HIS VISIT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SOMEWHAT TO AMERICAN SIDE'S SURPRISE, BREZHNEV DID NOT MAKE AN APPEARANCE TODAY, AND RUSSIANS DECLINED TO DISCUSS SALT.

-- WITH GROMYKO LEADING SOVIETS, OTHER AGENDA ITEMS WERE COVERED.

-- BREZHNEV HAS NOT BEEN IN BEST OF HEALTH, AND VANCE AND AIDES SAID ABSENCE PROBABLY DUE TO REASONS OTHER THAN SNUB.

-- IF BREZHNEV ABSENT TOMORROW AFTERNOON, THEN QUESTIONS WOULD ARISE ABOUT STATE OF RELATIONS.

-- ARMS CONTROL WAS NOT BROUGHT UP, EVEN THOUGH US EXPECTED IT TO BE AND SENT SALT EXPERTS TO THE MEETING. VANCE GAVE BEST POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION.

-- MUCH SPECULATION ON BREZHNEV'S ABSENCE, BUT COULD HAVE BEEN THAT ISSUES DISCUSSED DID NOT REQUIRE HIS PRESENCE, AND HE MAY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A SALT RESPONSE.

-- VANCE HAS FEELING SOVIETS WANT TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE AND ACTIVE ROLE AT ANY GENEVA CONFERENCE.

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-- ON LIMITING MIDEAST ARMS SALES, RUSSIANS PREFER TO AWAIT POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

-- ON MBFR, RUSSIANS AGREED IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET TALKS OUT OF DOLDRUMS.

WALL STREET JOURNAL

STORY ON PAGE 5. HEADLINE: "US, RUSSIA TO SET UP WORKING GROUPS ON ARMS-CONTROL, PEACE-KEEPING ISSUES"

KENNETH BACON FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION AGREED AT THEIR

SECOND DAY OF MEETINGS TO SET UP WORKING GROUPS TO CONSIDER SOLUTIONS TO SEVERAL ARMS-CONTROL AND PEACE-KEEPING PROBLEMS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- DECISION SUGGESTS TWO SIDES ARE "GRAPPLING CONSTRUCTIVELY" WITH A NUMBER OF ISSUES ON AGENDA.

-- VANCE DEFERRED ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBJECTS FOR GROUPS UNTIL COMMUNIQUE.

-- LIST OF TOPICS CONSIDERED AT TUESDAY TALKS.

-- SALT NOT DISCUSSED, WHICH VANCE FEELS MEANS SOVIETS GIVING US PROPOSALS "SERIOUS CONSIDERATION." HE HOPES SUBJECT WILL COME UP TODAY.

-- SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN "CONSTRUCTIVE THOUGHT" TO MIDEAST, BUT VANCE WOULDN'T DISCUSS GROMYKO REMARK.

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-- VANCE SAID IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE ISSUE OF LIMITATION OF ARMS SALES IN MIDEAST UNTIL PEACE AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

-- US AND SOVIETS APPARENTLY AGREED TO INTENSIFY MBFR EFFORTS.

-- HUMAN RIGHTS DID NOT COME UP.

-- BREZHNEV DID NOT ATTEND TUESDAY TALKS. VANCE SAID HE MIGHT ATTEND TODAY.

WASHINGTON POST

TWO STORIES ON FRONT PAGE, SIDE BY SIDE UNDER HEADLINE "US, SOVIETS TO SET UP ARMS CURB 'WORKING GROUPS'"

1. "MOSCOW DISAPPOINTED IN CARTER", BY PETER OSNOS (MOSCOW)

LEAD: "WHEN SENIOR COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS TALK PRIVATELY ABOUT PRES CARTER THESE DAYS THERE IS A TONE OF KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT, A FEELING THAT A MAN WHOSE PROMISE SOME COMPARED -- PERHAPS NAIVELY -- TO JOHN F. KENNEDY HAS LET THEM DOWN AND THAT CHANCES FOR WORLD PEACE ARE THE POORER."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SOVIETS INDIGNANT OVER "UNNECESSARILY FLAMBOYANT
DISPLAYS OF SUPPORT FOR DISSIDENTS."

-- ANGER DOES NOT CONVEY THE DISILLUSIONMENT OFFICIAL
RUSSIANS PROFESS.

-- SOVIETS FEEL PRESIDENT WAS DELIBERATELY PROVOCATIVE,
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AS THOUGH "HE HAS SET HIMSELF A GOAL TO SPOIL THE ATMOS-
PHERE IN THE WORST WAY HE COULD."

-- MOST TELLING BLOW: MEETING WITH BUKOVSKY.

-- ANOTHER IRRITANT: REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDING OF
RFE/RL.

-- SOVIETS ESPECIALLY PUZZLED SINCE CARTER MADE PRE-
INAUGURATION EFFORTS TO ASSURE SOVIETS HE WANTED TO SEE
RELATIONS IMPROVED.

-- "HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SOVIET SPECIALISTS IN FOREIGN
AFFAIRS SAY IT IS THE APPARENT PRECIPITOUSNESS OF CAR-
TER'S ACTIONS THAT CAUSE THEM AS MUCH OR MORE CONCERN
THAN THE ACTUAL CRUSADE ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

-- STILL, SOVIETS STOP SHORT OF SAYING THEY CANNOT WORK
PRODUCTIVELY WITH CARTER.

2. "VANCE: KREMLIN TALK 'CONSTRUCTIVE'", BY MURREY
MARDER (MOSCOW)

LEAD: THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE AGREED TO ESTAB-
LISH "WORKING GROUPS" ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS CURBING THE

SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, REDUCING ARMS SALES, HALTING
ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS AND BANNING NEW TYPES OF MASS-
DESTRUCTION WEAPONS, SECSTATE VANCE SAID TONIGHT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE DESCRIBED THIS AS SIGN OF USEFUL AND CONSTRUC-
TIVE DISCUSSIONS WHILE SOVIET LEADERS WEIGHED THEIR SALT
RESPONSE.

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-- EARLIER IN DAY, SWEDEN MONITORED POWERFUL UNDERGROUND
EXPLOSION IN SEMIPALITINSK.

-- AS SOVIETS DELIBERATED ON SALT, SUBJECT WENT UNMENTIONED

AT TODAY'S MEETINGS.

-- LIST OF SUBJECTS VANCE ANNOUNCED WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY WORKING GROUPS.

-- VANCE SAID MIDEAST AND AFRICA DISCUSSED, BUT REFUSED TO SAY IF THERE HAD BEEN AN EXPLANATION OF GROMYKO'S TOAST REMARK ON PLO.

-- LIST OF US PARTICIPANTS IN TALKS. MENTIONED WERE FACT THAT HYLAND ONLY "KISSINGER ERA" HOLDOVER, AND FACT THAT ROWNEY IS FIRST GENERAL TO TAKE PART IN TALKS.

-- DIPLOMATS SPECULATED THAT BY AGREEING TO WORKING GROUPS, SOVIETS TAKING OUT AN "INSURANCE POLICY" FOR CONTINUITY OF RELATIONS WITH US, REGARDLESS OF SALT OUTCOME.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

STORY ON PAGE 18. HEADLINE: "VANCE, RUSS DISCUSS SIDE ISSUES OF ARMS CONTROL."

OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE TUESDAY SPENT MORE THAN FIVE HOURS IN TALKS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP OVER SIDE ISSUES OF ARMS CONTROL AND, HE SAID, AGREED TO SET UP GROUPS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE ISSUES."

OTHER POINTS:
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-- BREZHNEV ABSENT.

-- VANCE EXPECTS TO SEE BREZHNEV BEFORE SCHEDULED END OF TALKS TODAY OR, AS APPEARS POSSIBLE, AFTER AN EXTRA SESSION ON THURSDAY.

-- VANCE GLAD SALT DIDN'T COME UP.

-- APPEARED LIKELY FOLLOWING WILL BE DISCUSSED BY WORKING GROUPS: MBFR; TOTAL NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY; DEMILITARIZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN; NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION; ARMS TRANSFERS; AND SOVIET OFFER TO BAN WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

-- MIDEAST ALSO DISCUSSED. VANCE "GUARDEDLY COMMENDED THE RUSSIAN POSITION AS 'CONSTRUCTIVE' -- A FREQUENTLY USED ADJECTIVE IN HIS BRIEF SESSION WITH REPORTERS."

-- VANCE DECLINED TO DISCUSS GROMYKO PLO REMARK.

-- TASS VERSION LEFT OUT REFERENCE TO MIDEAST. SOVIETS, WHO HAD STENOGRAPHERS PRESENT, HAVE SO FAR REFUSED TO HAND OVER AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT. SINCE THROUGH OVERSIGHT AN EMBASSY STENOGRAPHER WAS NOT PRESENT, THE ONLY PROOF IN US HANDS OF WHAT WAS SAID IS IN INFORMAL NOTES TAKEN TO BRIEF THE WESTERN PRESS.

-- STILL, VANCE SEEMS TO BE "MAKING MORE HEADWAY HERE THAN HAD SEEMED LIKELY WHEN THE GLARE OF PUBLICITY WAS FIXED ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS DISPUTE."

WIRES

UPI

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NICHOLAS DANILOFF FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV TODAY DELIVERED THE SOVIET REPLY TO US DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AND FORNMIN ANDREI GROMYKO HINTED THEY WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THEIR PRESENT FORM."

OTHER POINTS:

-- BREZHNEV RECEIVED VANCE IN HIS OFFICE AND WHEN ASKED BY ACCOMPANYING REPORTERS FOR HIS REACTION TO THE TWO PROPOSALS, DECLINED COMMENT.

-- EARLIER, GROMYKO HAD SUGGESTED THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED A DIFFICULT CHOICE TO WHICH THERE WAS NO EASY ANSWER.

--BREZHNEV APPEARED SUBDUED WHEN GREETING VANCE, IN CONTRAST TO BANTERING MOOD WITH REPORTERS WHEN KISSINGER LAST RECEIVED.

-- CARRIED BLOW BY BLOW DESCRIPTION OF PRESS'S EFFORTS TO QUESTION BREZHNEV.

-- VANCE AND GROMYKO HELD THREE HOURS OF TALKS THIS MORNING, AND VANCE WENT INTO AFTERNOON SESSION SEEKING AN ANSWER ON SALT PROPOSALS.

-- US DIPLOMATS HOPE SOVIETS WILL OFFER FLEXIBLE REACTIONS TO THE TWO US PROPOSALS.

-- VANCE SAID THAT THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR FAILURE OF THE TALKS.

-- USDEL MEMBERS SAID BREZHNEV "WAS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF SOVIET SIDE."

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-- DEPENDING ON SOVIET RESONSE, VANCE WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO EXTEND VISIT.

-- AFTER TUESDAY'S TALKS, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO SET UP "FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUPS."

AP

KEN FREED FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE OPENED HIS LAST SCHEDULED DAY OF KREMLIN TALKS TODAY WITH A SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY FORMIN ANDREI A. GROMYKO."

OTHER POINTS:

-- TALKS DID NOT IMMEDIATELY BEGIN WITH SALT, BUT THIS WAS EXPECTED TO BE COVERED LATER IN DAY.

-- TASS LISTED TOPICS DISCUSSED AS: BERLIN, BELGRADE CONFERENCE THIS JUNE, CYPRUS, AND ARMS ISSUES.

-- VANCE AND GROMYKO AGREED TUESDAY TO SET UP WORKING GROUPS, THE FIRST CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE VISIT.

-- AT TUESDAY PRESS CONF, VANCE OUTLINED SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

-- VANCE SAID HE AND GROMYKO TOUCHED ON POSSIBILITY THAT USSR MIGHT BE WILLING TO RECONVENE GENEVA CONF WITHOUT RESOLVING PLO PARTICIPATION QUESTION IN ADVANCE.

-- FACT THAT SALT DID NOT COME UP ON TUESDAY MIGHT BE HEALTHY SIGN, ACCORDING TO VANCE.

RADIO/TV

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CBS

1. BERNARD KALB ON CBS RADIO

DALLAS TOWNSEND: SECSTATE VANCE AND SOVIET FORMIN GROMYKO MET FOR THE FIFTH TIME TODAY AT THE KREMLIN.

THEY HELD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF VARIOUS WORLD AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS. BUT SO FAR, AS WE HEAR FROM BERNARD KALB IN MOSCOW, THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION WHETHER THEY WILL REACH A BREAKTHROUGH ON CONTROLLING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

KALB: VANCE'S EXPECTATION BEFORE THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS BEGAN THIS MORNING WAS THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD

RESPOND TO THE TWO US ARMS PROPOSALS THAT WERE TABLED AT MONDAY'S OPENING ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE RUSSIANS HAD NOT EVEN RAISED THE SUBJECT AT YESTERDAY'S TWO SESSIONS, A DEVELOPMENT THAT SURPRISED AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, SINCE SALT -- OR THE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR ARMS -- WAS THE CENTRAL REASON WHY VANCE HAD COME TO MOSCOW.

VANCE, HOWEVER, SAID HE WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED ABOUT THAT, IN FACT, THAT HE WAS GLAD BECAUSE IT INDICATED, HE SAID, THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THESE PROPOSALS. WHEN VANCE WAS ASKED WHETHER THE RUSSIANS HAD TOLD HIM THAT, HE REPLIED, I DIDN'T ASK ABOUT IT.

2. MARVIN KALB ON CBS-TV MORNING NEWS

LESLIE STAHL: WHILE SECSTATE VANCE IS DESCRIBING HIS TALKS IN MOSCOW AS CONSTRUCTIVE, THE RUSSIANS HAVE COME UP WITH A SURPRISE FOR VANCE IN ANOTHER AREA.

KALB: GROMYKO HAS TANTALIZED AMERICAN OFFICIALS WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTION THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST MIGHT BE RECONVENED WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO. THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR TWO REASONS. IT MIGHT REFLECT A CHANGE IN THE SOVIET POLICY OF ALL-OUT SUPPORT FOR THE PLO, AND IT IS CLEARLY AN OVERTURE TO PRES CARTER, WHO WANTS THE CONFERENCE TO MEET THIS FALL. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN RECENT DAYS THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE INDICATED FLEXIBILITY ON THE MIDDLE EAST. LAST WEEK, WHEN SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV UNVEILED HIS OWN PEACE PLAN, HE DID NOT EVEN BOTHER TO MENTION THE PLO, LIMITING HIMSELF TO A BLAND CALL FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

VANCE ASKED GROMYKO ABOUT THIS APPARENT SHIFT IN THE SOVIET ATTITUDE, BUT GOT ONLY A VAGUE ANSWER. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOW SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS. SOME EXPERTS STILL FEEL THAT BREZHNEV IS TELLING THE PRESIDENT THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION IS STILL POSSIBLE IF MR CARTER EASES UP ON HIS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AND ACCEPTS SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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